Still August 25th, 2025. Uh, I just have to flip back because I dropped my bookmark, but we're just not going to use a bookmark.

I'm on chapter five, so just got to scroll to chapter five.

Yeah, we just got through the scene where — that Martha Wells literally wrote the whole book to write, where — the scene where Murderbot, the slave, attempts to kill itself to protect its precious slave owners.

Specifically, she definitely just imagined the dialogue of “you have to stop me / you have to kill me.”

She she definitely figured that out first and thought, "Oh, that would be so cool. I love that trope." And then decided to make it be about a slave trying to protect its slave owners instead of literally any other dynamic in the entire world.

So, now we're on chapter five where they at least don't put in a giant blank page here, like they did with

the earlier chapters to buff out how long this fucking book is, and lie to people.

Like, look, look at this shit. It's chapter 3.

> I came back online to find I was inert but slowly cycling into a wake up phase. I was agitated. My levels were all off and I had no idea why. I played back my personal log. Oh, right.

Again, making jokes. That's making light of the situation. We — there's so many ways we could do this that's not making light of it and making it impossible to take it seriously.

But we're not doing any of those things. Instead, we are undercutting all of the fucking tension.

> I shouldn't be waking up. I hope they hadn't been stupid about it. Too soft-hearted to kill me.

Also, this whole thing just really doesn't make sense and is really badly written and is just badly written.

> You notice I didn't point the gun at my head. I didn't want to kill myself, but it was going to have to be done. I could have incapacitated myself some other way. But let's face it, I didn't want to sit around and listen to the part where they convinced each other that there was no other choice.

It's just like, it's just a baff — it's, there's not — it's just baffling.

(from offscreen) She clearly had people beating her the head with you should not

Say that louder so they can hear.

(from offscreen, louder) was clearly being beaten over the head with by better readers and people reading it that “you should not have your slave kill itself to protect them.” She's like, "Well, technically Murderbot wasn't trying to kill itself."

Yeah.

(from offscreen) So, technically,

Yeah. This is very clearly backtracking of “Murderbot the slave is trying to kill itself to protect its slave owners.” That just happened on this page. So now on this page, she's already trying to backtrack in the most baffling way possible by saying that, "Oh, um, well, Murderbot wasn't really trying to kill itself when it shot itself with the express purpose of trying to kill itself.”

Now we're trying to backpedal away from that, and it's not fucking working. It's rid — It's just baffling and ridiculous.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me that the combat mod

Of course it has.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me

Also, what do you mean it initiated and then instantly told you that?

You could have said a diagnostic that had been taking up most of my processing power, uh completed, and informed me that blah.

No, it's just

> a diagnostic initiated and informed me that the combat override module had been removed. All

Both those things happen at the exact same instant.

The diagnostic starts running and it instantly tells Murderbot that the super duper controlling brain killing chip is not there anymore.

Because again, you know how I said this is all setup? It's literally the only reason the combat override module, aka super duper uber scary brainkilling chip of redundancy that any writer or editor Lee Harris worth even a fucking penny, would have told Martha Wells to get the fuck rid ofm because it's ridiculous.

You don't need to have completely redundant, super duper uber governor modules when literally all you have to do is hack the HubSystem that controls their governor modules and then you can do whatever you want with them, exactly the way like you were their fucking owner.

It's literally that simple. That's all you have to do.

But Martha Wells decided to introduce the concept of a super uber brain killing chip that we're calling a combat override module, solely for the purpose so that she could write this scene where the slave tries to heroically tragically kill itself to protect its slave owners.

So she could have a character say the dialogue, "You have to stop me. You have to kill me” In the most meaningless way possible.

And then she made it about a slave trying to kill itself to protect its owners.

And then immediately tries to backtrack and pretend that that's not what just happened, and not what she was so excited to write. Even though she'll literally — she's told multiple people in multiple interviews that this is, this is what she wrote the book for. This was her whole premise for the book.

> A diagnostic initiated

What is that sound? It sounds very loud.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me the combat

Oh yeah. Again with the zero stakes. That super uber duper brain killing chip. It's literally already gone. It, it we got introduced to the fact that that was a thing um right over here.

Literally, this is page 75, up at the top here is where we get the “uh oh”, and we get randomly told about the fact that Murderbot has a data port in the back of its neck, a thing that did not fucking exist until right

now, for the sole purpose of there being a, a, a super duper uber brain killing chip in its data port.

And now we're over here, and it's already gone.

The threat is completely and utterly neutralized and will literally never come up in the series ever again.

That's not a fucking thing that Murderbot has to deal with or be afraid of. It's literally impossible.

That's, that super duper uber brain killing chip literally existed so that Martha Wells could write a two-page scene where a slave tries to kill itself to protect its slave owners by shooting itself after saying, "You have to stop me." Because that sounds like good dialogue from the climax to a story that's actually well written, but isn'tm because it's, it's just slavery apologism, worshiping slave owners, and now the super duper uber brain killing chip is all —

And just in case you were concerned or had thought there were going to be any stakes to this story at all, no, it's literally already gone right here. Right here.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me that the combat override module had been removed.

So, it's, it's gone. Murderbot is not even remotely under its control. It was never under its control, because it was literally just so that scene could happen.

And now that the, the scene has happened, it's not a threat anymore, will never be a threat ever again, because this is supposed to be a light-hearted comedy, which is why it is written so that every single time there can possibly be any tension whatsoever, it gets undercut.

Martha Wells goes out of her way to undercut it. Even right up at the top here, where Murderbot is first waking up from shooting itself, we immediately make a joke. “Oh, why am I upset? Oh, right. Lol. I tried to kill myself.”

(from offscreen) “I just tried to commit suicide.”

Yeah.

(from offscreen) On screen.

Literally

(from offscreen) “this is a good thing!”

Yeah. Martha Wells is literally portraying a slave attempting suicide to save its slave owners and is treating that like a positive thing.

And then when that slave wakes up from this attempt, is immediately making a joke of it. And then you — it's not possible to take this shit seriously.

And then she still wants to go up on stage and lie to people who haven't read these books, so they have no idea how badly they're being lied to, and tell people that she wrote a deathly serious story that's not lighthearted or funny. “I thought I was writing a very serious story about bodily autonomy.”

And it's like, no, you didn't. You did not do that. You expressly did not fucking do that.

And it's — and she's like, “just because I sometimes tell jokes doesn't mean it's a comedy.;

And it's like, there's a difference between characters telling jokes in a serious story and you writing a fucking light-hearted comedy where every single time there's tension, you immediately fucking vaporize that tension by making jokes about it to undercut the tension and make it impossible to take it seriously.

You can in fact tell jokes in a sto — in a serious story without that making the sto, the serious story into a comedy.

But Martha Wells didn't write a serious story.

She wrote a light-hearted fucking comedy.

She then wants to lie to people and say that she didn't do that because she's a racist shitty writer.

(unintelligible from offscreen)

What?

(from offscreen) She wrote what would best be described as an action comedy.

Yeah, I'm pretty sure that that's probably how the that's probably how the TV show is getting marketed. It's an action comedy. That's what this is. It's a light-hearted action comedy because she wrote it that way.

She didn't have to write it this way, she could have actually written a serious story, but she chose not to.

Like at some point when I'm done this or, I guess, I guess I'll rewatch my videos so I don't have to read the book again.

And I will just make a fucking tally mark — or you can do that yourself starting now. Make a tally mark for every time we have some tension and then it immediately gets fucking decapitated by a joke immediately afterward, to make it impossible to take it seriously. Make a tally mark every time we get told, "Oh, there's there's some fight going on." Zero description. Zero description of any injury. Zero description of the amount of pain that Murderbot's in.

And then the Oh, yeah. Uh if you were concerned about —

Where'd my paper go? Paper… my tally marks, my little stick figure at the top. If you were concerned about any of those injuries there on my little stick figure — where's where's the camera at? Dang, it really does not want to focus on this side.

If you were concerned about any of those injuries, every little tally mark and mark, including the pink ones you see on there, those are just the injuries that Murderbot sustained in the last chapter. They're all magically healed now.

Sorry to disappoint anybody who actually gives a fucking about good storytelling.

Uh yeah, all of those injuries are magically healed because Martha Wells is a shit writer and she hates physically disabled people.

Anyways, let's continue actually fucking reading this.

We're still on page one of chapter 5.

> A diagnostic initiated and informed me the combat override module had been removed.

Also, I hate the — I hate the words “combat override module”.

I always want to read it in the wrong order. I always want to say “combat module override” for some reason. It's irritating as shit.

(from offscreen) More logical that way.

No, it's not even though, because — Well, I mean, yeah, because then the, the emphasis is on the overriding part and not the module part....

I don't know why they're called combat override modules anyways, because you could use that for literally anything. a SecUnit is used for — it's not combat.

Oh, also you notice how, um I forget the exact line that, I meant to mention it for in the last video, but you notice how we got told a bunch of duties that that the meatshield slaves aka SecUnits, security units, uh how none of them are —

No, wait, no, that was the stupid ass...That was for compulsion, Compulsory, whatever the fuck it's called. Never mind. That's not relevant yet. Ignore me.

Needless to say, it's a flatout fucking lie that SecUnits are used to murder people. That literally never happens, ever.

> I opened my security feed and found a camera for medical. I was lying on the procedure table, my armor gone, just wearing what was left of my suit skin. The humans gathered around. That was a bit of a nightmare image, but my shoulder, hand, and hip had been repaired, so I'd been in my cubicle at some point

Because, you know, who gives a fuck about stakes? Who gives a fuck about telling a story that we are allowed to take seriously?

Not Martha Wells, because she would ra — she'd honestly at this point, she would rather kill Murderbot off completely than let it become physically disabled or even give it a fucking scar.

> I ran the recording back a little and watched Pin-Lee and Oversee use the surgical suite to deaftly remove the combat module from the back of my head.

Why do they need surgery? It's a goddamn flash drive thingamajiggy.

> It was such a relief. I played the recording twice, then ran a diagnostic.

Why aren't you saying another diagnostic? It's already run one fucking diagnostic. Say another diagnostic because said because just saying I ran a diagnostic.

It's sounding like you already fucking forgot you just said it ran one.

(from offscreen) She probably did. She probably did forget that.

Uh we were reading some reviews for her The Books of the Raksura just the first one, The Cloud Roads, and people were pointing out there's literal whole scenes where characters literally fucking forgot what was just said on page two pages ago, because the author fucking forgot she wrote it.

> My logs were clear. Nothing there except what I'd had before entering the DeltFall habitat.

Oh my god. I want to commit murder before I read this last line. Oh my god. Oh my god. Turn to page 78. Class, do you want to guess what the next line is?

(from offscreen) I'm eating cheerios.

Just guess. It's six words out of all the slavery apologism.

(from offscreen) I cannot think of anything.

Okay, let me read the paragraph part of the paragraph above here. Blah blah blah blah blah.

> I re ran the recording back a little and watched Pin-Lee and Overse use the surgical suite to deaftly remove the combat module from the back of my head. It was such a relief. I played the recording twice, then ran a diagnostic. My logs were clear. Nothing there except what I'd had before entering the DeltFall habitat.
> My clients are the best clients.

Aka, my slave owners are the best slave owners.

Did you think I was exaggerating when I've said that multiple times?

No, that's a literal fucking sentence in this goddamn book.

“My clients are the best clients” when clients are explicitly slave owners.

Literally saying, "My slave owners are the best slave owners."

I'm not even fucking joking. Jesus Christ.

Oh, and also the, the there's also slavery apologism by saying “my clients” as though they are something that belongs to Murderbot. instead of people who own Murderbot, the other way around. That's more slavery apologism, because that's supposed to make it seem endearing and like uh, heartwarming and like, "Oh, Murderbot really loves them."

The power — what it's also trying — it's a way, propaganda way to inverse the power — perceived power dynamics, as though Murderbot is the one in control of who it's hiring as its clients.

Yeah.

Not literally being owned to them body and fucking soul.

Yep. Just wait until you get to that part.

They they, yeah. Hopefully you can fucking hear that.

Pointing out other side of the cardboard pointing out that the inherent slavery apologism in referring to slave owners as “clients” is, again, especially when Murderbot says things — when Martha Wells has her fucking slave character say things like, "My clients are the best clients." That is specifically, as they just said, um trying —

Pretending to inverse the power dynamic between slave and owner, as though — Murderbot saying “my clients” as though it's, as though Murderbot has any actual choice in who it takes on as its clients, instead of “these are just the latest fucking people to rent Murderbot out as a fucking slave.”

They are its slave owners.

But you know, “my slave owners are the best slave owners.”

Then hearing came online. I've had HubSystem

Oh, we're going to get to —

Oh, where this is the part —

First of all, this is a part that Martha Wells goes around brazenly lying to people about.

And so far, nobody's fucking called her out on it, because everybody she's lying to hasn't read the book to know they're being lied to.

And also, um, this is going to be — we're going to, we're going to spend so long on the next page and a half.

Uh, is it the page and a half? Let me let me scroll quick. That just like in The Books of the Raksura. Okay. No, it does. It does cover a few pages.

It's going to go to page 84. Um, we're on page 79. So, it's going to cover five pages. No, we're on page 78 still.

Uh, it's going to cover six pages. So, give or take. I'm not doing math. Um, I'm rounding.

Uh, this is gonna be the most fucking —

How would you describe the conversation I'm about to read off, if you can think of anything?

(from offscreen) Like, she was literally writing a first draft, kept getting stuck, decided, “I'll just start the conversation over from scratch and I'll delete the versions I don't like later” and then didn't do that. And none of the people who claimed to have edited caught it.

Lee Harris. Lee Harris, the same person who supposedly edited Rappor is taking credit for this.

Yeah, if you didn't hear any of that, if the fan's too loud or the cardboard's too muffling,

(from offscreen) crunch of Cheerios

And the through the crunch of Cheerios. Uh, they have decided to describe the conversation I'm about to read, cuz we've already laughed our fucking asses off the at, at this after staring at it and frantically flipping back and forth going, "Wait, what the fucking are you — what the fucking going on?"

This conversation is as though Martha Wells kept writing the conversation and then deciding, "No, no, I don't like it. I'm gonna throw that away. I'll just start the conversation over and we'll I'll just delete those extra versions afterward." But then she didn't do that. She didn't go back and edit out the earlier versions of the conversation that are now defunct.

And then the fucking editing this, Lee Harris, who's proud to put their fucking name on this fucking uh, they didn't fix it either.

So, it's it's, it's ridiculous.

Anybody who says that Martha Wells is a good writer needs to just look at this fucking conversation or, you know, like any of the lack of literally basic shit.

She literally called her villains in her newest fantasy series, she unironically named her villains “expositors” because she thinks she's fucking hilarious, because she doesn't know how to write exposition.

So, she's literally named the villains of the story expositors.

I'm not joking.

And she thinks that's funny and clever.

And it's just like, you are literally telling everybody who understands actual writing and media that you're a shit writer and you're bragging about it. It's ridiculous.

Anyways, um yeah, this is the start of…so fucking bad.

I've had HubSystem immobilize it, Gurathin

[sneezing sound]

Bless you.

> Gurathin said. Huh. Well, that explains a lot. I still had control of SecSystem and I told it to freeze HubSystem’s access to its feed and implement my emergency

And now I have the hiccups

> and implement my emergency routine. This was a function I'd built in that would substitute an hour or so of ambient habitat noise in place of the visual and audio recordings HubSystem made to anyone listening to us through HubSystem or trying to play back the recording. It would just sound like everybody had abruptly stopped talking.

That doesn't even work because they've already said a whole bunch of shit while Murderbot was unconscious.

And it's not like, it, because it's saying uh this would substitute an hour or so of habitat noise in place of

visual and audio recordings, starting now, presumably, because we're not told it “I went back retroactively and deleted all that shit just to be safe”.

And also, everybody suddenly stopping mid conversation is going to be extremely fucking suspicious, and really fucking obvious.

Kind of like, Murderbot, Martha Wells, the other fucking slaves making sure to clean the hallway that the trap was set in and really obviously setting the body in an unnatural position to try and keep you alive. You ungrateful sack of shit. And Martha Wells, you racist fucking sack of shit.

She didn't write it that way to be framed that way.

Uh yeah,

> to anybody to anyone listening to us through HubSystem or trying to play back the recording, it would just sound like everybody had abruptly stopped talking. A

Also, I want to point out before we get further into this train wreck that's about to happen on page for you to witness: if they know that HubSystem is malfunctioning and trying to send their autopilot making them crash into a mountain….

Can you give me one good reason that Murderbot didn't suggest just turning it off, and why none of these people didn't suggest just turning it off?

It's actively trying to kill them and they know this.

So why are you leaving it on? Why are you still letting it record all of your conversations and things?

There's never any explanation for that, and it's completely absurd.

It's — especially because we know that these people know how to set up their own Wi-Fi and shit. They could even set up their own camera systems. Why, why are they leaving the, the computer system that's trying to kill them turned on? It's it's ridiculous.

> What Gurathin had said had evidently been a surprise because voices protested Rathi, Volescu, and Arada mostly. Pin-Lee was saying impatiently, "There's no danger. When it shot itself, it froze the download. I was able to remove the few fragments of rogue code that had been copied over.

And again, with dehumanizing it, these are slave owners dehumanizing their slave as an object. They are still by default referring to it as an it, as an object that they own. Even though we're supposed to pretend that they are “treating it like a person”, even though none of them have asked Murderbot what its fucking pronouns are, the basic thing you would do in this kind of situation where you have been referring to somebody as an it.

And if we go with their lie, pretending you didn't realize it was a person, so you've been calling it “it” specifically because you supposedly thought of it as nothing more than an object. So, why aren't they asking Murderbot’s pronouns?

in-universe, these are the fucking questions we have to ask.

Out of universe, the answer is that Martha Wells hates trans people. She hates trans people to the point that in System Collapse, the book published in 2023, she decided to actively shit on the concept of asking other people's pronouns.

Instead of just just genuinely have a character just casually fucking ask somebody else their pronouns, she decided to shit on that concept because she fucking hates trans people, and because too many people were very obviously pointing out the fact that nobody has ever asked Murderbot what its fucking pronouns are, and nobody else has ever asked anybody else what their fucking pronouns are.

It's all just assumed based on people's sex and is always correct somehow, even though this would be the perfect reason for her to actually finally confirm in the text what Murderbot’s pronouns are.

Yeah, she's, she's a she hates trans people and she especially hates non-binary people because — whatever, you get the fucking picture.

Ow, my ribs. Why? This book is cursing me.

> Overse began, “Do you want to do your own diagnostic? Because I could hear them in the room and on the security feed. So I switched to just visual on the camera. Mensah had held up a hand for quiet. She said, "Gurathin, what's wrong?" Gurathin said, "With it offline, I was able to use HubSystem to get some access to its internal system and log. I wanted to explore some anomalies I'd noticed through the feed." He gestured to me. This unit was already a rogue. It has hack — It has a hacked governor module.

And this is the part that Martha Wells lies to people about very fucking brazenly. She literally goes around telling people that Murderbot made the choice to tell its slave owners — that she refers to as clients — she

goes around literally fucking telling people that “Murderbot chose to reveal that it was a rogue!”

She literally lies about one of the most basic and important plot points in this book.

We're at the 50% mark.

This is the, I don't know, I forget what the fucking you call it. It's — this is an important plot point. She — and she lies about it brazenly to everyone.

She literally tells people that Murderbot chose to tell these people that its governor module was hacked, when Gurathin literally hacked into its brain while it was unconscious and invaded its literal brain and tells everybody all of this fucking without any consent from Murderbot.

Gurathin literally fucking hacked into Murderbot's brain and looked through Murderbot's fucking brain and told everybody that it is in fact a slave who is not controlled by the governor module. And Martha Wells lies about this!

> On the entertainment feed, this is what they call an oh fucking moment. Through the security cams, I watch them be confused, but not alarmed. Not yet. Pin-Lee, who had apparently been just been digging around in my lo — who had apparently just been digging around in my local system, folded her arms. Her expression was sharp and skeptical. “I find that difficult to believe.” She didn't add, ‘You asshole,’ but it was in her voice. She didn't like anybody questioning her expertise. "It doesn't have to follow our commands. There is no control over its behavior," Gurathin said.

And this is the first time any of them have any clue of this.

So you'll notice that for the first 78 pages of this book, more than halfway through, these slave owners have thought that they've had complete control over Murderbot. So that when Murderbot was going into the DeltFall habitat to murder the other fucking slaves, especially after it became clear that there

were no survivors and that you're going to have to, in their racist fucking worldview, they're just going to be there to have to kill the other slaves!

You'll notice none of them told Murderbot, "Okay, retreat. It's too dangerous." Or anything like that. Or again, you know, “let's try to make peace. Let's try to negotiate.” Anything like that. No, they use Murderbot as a weapon of murder against the other fucking slaves.

That's what happened as far as these fucking are concerned, because as far as they know, Murderbot literally, as I said in the video before now, could have literally been screaming internally the entire time it was being forced to go in there to kill the other slaves.

As far as they know, Murderbot's soul could be awash in anguish at the fucking idea of having to kill the other slaves. And it could have been doing everything in its mental fucking power, all in vain, to try and stop itself from killing the other slaves. A thing that they were ordering it to do and making it fucking do.

They could have told it to retreat at any point, but they didn't, because, in-universe we have — the *only* logical conclusion is that they wanted Murderbot to kill the other fucking slaves.

Especially Mensah, she explicitly was on the same fucking page as Murderbot that whole fucking time, and knew exactly what was going on, and went along, and in her mind created the fucking plan to stab the other slaves in the fucking back for the crime of trying to warn Murderbot.

Now, only just fucking now, on page 79, do these slave owners realize, "Oh, okay. So, we weren't actually in control of it.”

None of their past actions change in any fucking way. It just further shows that everything they were doing before now is exactly as evil as it fucking would be if this weren't written by a racist fucking who loves slavery and loves slavery apologism and literally wrote the whole thing just so she could have an excuse to write a scene where a slave says, "You have to stop me. You have to kill me."

Now they are finding out that Murderbot is in fact capable of disobeying their orders if it really wants to. Except for, you know, that other core programming that forces it to have to protect them whether it wants it or not. The thing it's not allowed to be a-fucking-ware of. That's a fucking thing.

[looking at computer] No, there's a network problem. Resume uploading.

And you'll notice that everybody, again, I keep bringing this up, and I'm never never going to stop bringing it up — Everybody in the fandom will tell you, "Oh, they started treating Murderbot like a person as soon as they realized it was a person." And yet, that literally yet has yet to happen.

79 pages into the book, as far as these lying numbers go, that has yet to happen. They still are not treating Murderbot like a person at all. They are in fact still dehumanizing it.

And this will be the perfect opportunity for Murderbot to state that its pronouns are it/its even without

having to be asked, because these people *could* be referring to Murderbot with they/them pronouns once they realize, "Oh shit, um, it could actually kill us if it wanted to." They could immediately start referring to it as they/them pronouns. And Murderbot could be like, "No, those are not my pronouns. No, call me it. That's my fucking pronoun." But we can't have any kind of conversation like that, because that would require Martha Wells giving any shits at all about anything going on here.

> “It doesn't have to follow our commands. There is no control over its behavior.” Gurathin said getting impatient. He didn't like anybody questioning his expertise either, but he didn't show it like Pin-Lee did.

Also, you notice the random mind reading that Murderbot's doing for no fucking reason. No explanation.

> “I showed Volescu my evaluations and he agrees with me.” I had a moment to feel betrayed, which was stupid. Volescu was my

client and I'd saved his life because that was my job, not because I liked him. But then Volescu said, "I don't agree with you." "The governor module is working then?" Mensah asked, frowning at all of them. "No, it's definitely hacked," Volescu explained. When he wasn't getting attacked by giant fauna, he was a pretty calm guy. "The governor's connection to the rest of the SecUnit system is partially severed. It can transmit commands but can't enforce them or control behavior or apply punishment. But I think the fact that the unit has been acting to preserve our lives to take care of us while it was a free agent gives us even more reason to trust it.” Okay, so I did like him. Gurathin insisted, "We've been sabotaged since we got here. The missing hazard report, the missing map sections, the SecUnit must be part of that. It's acting from for the company. They don't want this planet surveyed for whatever reason. This is what must have happened to DeltFall.” Rathi had been waiting for a moment to lunge in and interrupt.

Again, weird mind reading. Why are we getting told what Rathi's motivations are? And this is not — no, _ — This is not Murderbot being an unreliable narrator, this happens in all of Martha Wells's stories.

We just get told other characters motivations out of nowhere as though it's fucking true, all the fucking time.

This is not, “oh, it's a character choice. It's, it's Murderbot being an unreliable narrator!” No, that's not what being an unreliable narrator means, not when it's a consistent fucking issue with the writer.

So,

> Rathi had been waiting for a moment to lunge in and interrupt. “Something odd is definitely going on. There were only three SecUnits for DeltFall in their specs, but there were five units in their habitat. Someone is sabotaging us, but I don't think our SecUnit is part of it.”

because it's One Of The Good Ones™.

> With finality, Bharadwaj said, "Volescu and Rathi are right. If the company did order the SecUnit to kill us, we would all be dead." Overse sounded mad.

See, that's a fine statement to make. She *sounds* mad. Not “Overse was mad and had been waiting for a while to say it” like she, like we've just done with fucking Rathi, and Gurathin, and Pin-Lee.

It's like, you can say what Murderbot thinks of their tone of voice and shit, but you can't just go around saying ‘’Rathi had been waiting for a moment to lunge in and interrupt.’’ You're not writing in third person perspective, Martha Wells. That's not how the — That's not even how this works in limited person perspective, like she did in Witch King.

> Overse sounded mad. “It told us about the combat module. It told it us to kill it. Why the hell would it do that if it wanted to hurt us?” I liked her, too. And even though being part of this conversation was the last thing I wanted to do, it was time to speak for myself. I kept my

> eyes closed, watching them through the security camera because that was easier. I made myself say, "The company isn't trying to kill you."
> That startled them. Gurathin started to speak and Pin-Lee shushed him. Mensah stepped forward, watching me with a worried expression. She was standing near me with Gurathin and the others gathered in a loose circle around her. Bharadwaj was furthest back, sitting in a chair. Mensah said, "SecUnit, how do you know that?"

Literally addressing it as Slave. “Slave, how do you know that?” Because SecUnit is a synonymous with slave. Literally saying Slave, how do you know that? Jesus Christ.

Yeah, but you we're now on page 81. 81. What's the percentage of 81 out of 149? Let's see what percentage we're at.

We are 54% of the way through this story and they are literally still treating this slave, that they rented out and are slave owners of, as a fucking slave.

Despite all of the lying that the fandom will do to insist to you that ~um,,, actually,,,, they started treating it well as soon as they found out it was a person!!!~ a thing that supposedly happened on page fucking one.

We're 80 pages after that now — well, no, because they're lying about the page numbers. That happened on page nine, quote unquote.

We're now on quote unquote page 81, but the fandom will insist to you that “they started treating it well as soon as they found out it was not a robot because it took its helmet off to talk to Volescu!!!” Even though they know robots are people. Because racism so strong, so strong Martha Wells can't even keep her own shit straight.

> Mensah said, "*Slave*, how do you know that?”
> Even through the camera, this was hard. I tried

> to pretend I was back in my cubicle. “Because if the company wanted to sabotage you, they would have poisoned your supplies using the recycling systems. The company is more likely to kill you by accident.” There was a moment where they all thought about how easy it would have been for the company to sabotage its own environmental settings. Rathi began, "But surely that would—” Gurathin's expression was stiffer than usual. “This unit has killed people before. People it was charged with protecting. It killed 57 members of a mining operation engine."

Again, continuing the dehumanization. Literally referring to Murderbot as a fucking object. “This unit, this fucking object has killed people before. Killed people it was tasked with protecting.”

And it's like, wow, you mean people it was enslaved to be a meatshield for? Is that what you fucking mean? People who enslaved it, but we're phrasing it as “people it was tasked with protecting” as though that

was a job that it took on willingly and not a thing it was literally enslaved to do as a fucking meatshield.

Martha Wells is so fucking racist.

> “It killed 57 members of a mining operation.”

And again, we're on page 82. We are 54% of the way through this fucking book.

And now we're getting this quote unquote bombshell dropped on us with zero setup. There was literally nothing in here to hint at this before now, because most likely, just like with the bombshell in The Cloud Roads, it probably did not exist until Martha Wells wrote it down right fucking here.

And then she was too fucking lazy to go back and edit it into the rest of the story before now for basic consistency, foreshadowing, and setup.

Just like that bombshell that randomly gets dropped on you out of nowhere about Moon's past in The Cloud Roads, book 1 of The Books of the Raksura, a

thing that comes so out of fucking nowhere that you — it's just it's like impossible to fucking believe that it actually happened, because that's the exact kind of thing that you the character would be thinking about and it literally just — it literally leaves everybody convinced, “yeah, Martha Wells literally just made this up 5 seconds before typing it into this section of the book and then was too fucking lazy to edit it in everywhere else”.

> “It killed 57 members of a mining operation.” What I told you before about how I hacked my governor module but didn't become a mass murderer, that was only sort of true. I was already a mass murderer. I didn't want to explain. I had to explain.

Because this is this is Martha Wells's excuse for not doing basic writing shit like foreshadowing and setup.

> I didn't want to explain. I had to explain. I said “I did not hack my governor module to kill my clients.

~I didn't — I didn't disable the fucking brain killing chip in my head that forces me to follow orders so I could kill my slave owners. That would be an evil thing to do!!!!~

Because Martha Wells hates slaves and wants you to hate them, too.

What in the fuck —

Why —

Like, here's a here's a here's a wild fucking concept for people: Yes, it would 100% be morally correct and good, and we should cheer it on, if any slaves in the story ever actually managed to hack their governor modules for the sole purpose of killing their fucking slave owners.

That's a thing we should be cheering on.

That's not a bad thing that they should be ashamed of.

They should be cheered on.

Everybody should want that to fucking happen.

Everybody who's not a fucking racist slave slavery fucking worshipper wants that to happen.

> “I did not hack my governor module to kill my clients. My governor module malfunctioned because the stupid company only buys the cheapest possible components. It malfunctioned and I lost control of my systems and I killed them. The company retrieved me and installed a new governor module. I hacked it so it wouldn't happen again.” I think that's what happened. The only thing I know for certain is that it didn't happen after I hacked the governor module. And it makes a better story that way. I watch enough serials to know how a story like that should go. Volescu looked sad. He shrugged a little. “My viewing of the unit's personal log that Gurathin obtained confirms that.”

Also, again, you'll notice how they are just casually talking about completely and utterly invading

Murderbot's personal privacy and going through its whole entire fucking life like it's a goddamn TV show.

Nobody ever apologizes for this either.

And it's just treat — being treated here like a totally normal thing that is so inconsequential we shouldn't be upset with it in any fucking way.

They literally hacked into this fucking slave's brain while it was unconscious after attempting to kill itself to save their fucking lives, and they just decided to just just read its fucking internal diary that's literally connected to its goddamn brain.

They literally just waltzed around through its fucking memories and invaded its privacy more closely than it's fucking possible to do in real life.

This is like, akin to touching somebody else's daemon in His Dark Material series.

They went through Murderbot's fucking brain while it was unconscious and are just casually chatting about

doing that. And nobody ever apologizes for it. And we're not supposed to be to see this as anything except, "Oh, yeah, that's a thing that can happen. That's totally fine."

> Gurathin turned to him, impatient.
> “The log confirms it because that's what the unit believes happened.” Bharadwaj sighed. “Yet here I sit, alive.” The silence was worse this time. On the feed, I saw Pin-Lee move uncertainly, glance at Overseers and Arada. Rathi rubbed his face. Then Men says said quietly, "SecUnit, do you have a name?"

Only on page 82 does anybody ask Murderbot one basic question about itself. It takes literally...what's 82 out of that number I typed in. Probably not too much of a difference. Okay, it is that much of a difference. We're now 55% of the way through the story. Only 55% of the way through the story, 55% of the way through the story, after all of these fucking slave owners supposedly “found out” on, starting on page

one that “it's really a person. It's not just a robot. It's a person!”

The thing they were supposedly only figured out on page one, practically page one, because I think that whole thing with the graboid was over before page two or three was even done. [flipping] Okay, that happens on page four. And that's supposedly when they all “realize realize it's a person”.

And now only on page 82 does anybody to bother to ask it a single basic question about itself, such as, "Do you have a name?"

Still not asking what its pronouns are, because these _ are slave owners and they don't actually care. And also, Martha Wells hates trans people.

> I wasn't sure what she wanted. “No.” “It calls itself Murderbot.” Gurathin said. I opened my eyes and looked at him. I couldn't stop myself. From their expressions, I knew everything I felt was showing on my face, and I hate that. I

> grated out, "That was private. The silence was longer this time.

And it's like, yeah. Um, if again, if you're worrying that there's going to be personal stakes, stakes of any kind, lasting consequences of any time, don't worry. The next book that Gurathin shows up in, he and Murderbot are complete BFFs. It's all water under the bridge. Nobody gives a single shit, because Martha Wells is so desperate to make this not serious in every way possible.

We can't even keep something as simple as “these two characters don't fucking like each other” straight. Not even that. That can't even last.

> Then Volescu said, "Gurathin, you wanted to know how it spends its time. That was what you were originally looking for in the logs. Tell them." Mensah lifted her brows. “Well,” Gurathin hesitated. “It's downloaded 700 hours of entertainment programming since we landed. Mostly serials. Mostly something called Sanctuary Moon.” He shook his head,

> dismissing it. “It's probably using it to encode data for the company. It can't be watching it. Not in that volume. We'd notice.” I snorted. He underestimated me.

Again, another joke. Up here we get the super sad puppy dog eyes reveal that Murderbot just had its its name told to everybody against its will, and that makes it super sad and have puppy dog eyes, and then we are already down here, Murderbot snorting in amusement because ~oh you underestimate how much TV I can watch~

Again. We're not even allowed to sit with the supposed sadness of having this level of privacy violated. We can't even do that for half a page. It's—we're already making a joke and moving on. Like, it doesn't matter.

> Rathi said, "The one where the colony's solicitor killed the terraforming supervisor who was the secondary donor for her implanted baby?"
> Again, I couldn't help it. I said, "She didn't kill him. That's a fucking lie."

Because again, jokes, jokes about how much of a nerd Murderbot is about soap operas.

> Rathi turned to Mensah. “It's watching it.”

Again, this is all a joke on the exact same page that we supposedly have Murderbot being very sad about its privacy being violated. And we are already moving on to a completely different topic to make jokes about and make it “haha it's so funny.” Don't focus even for five seconds on any of the things that are supposed to be dramatic and sad.

> Her expression fa

This is the start of the conversation that's completely nonsensical.

> Her expression fascinated Pin-Lee asked, "But how did you hack your own governor module?" Murderbot says, "All the company equipment is the same."

That's where the dialogue ends. And then Murderbot is just thinking to itself:

> I got a download once that included all the specs for company systems. Stuck in a cubicle with nothing to do, I used it to work out the codes for the governor module.

Also, slightly on topic, slightly off. If you want to just read a book, just the very start of the book, you can buy it… [suddenly looking down at All Systems Red] Um, it's peeling worse for the fucking record. It's the peeling is down to here. There's only this much left of the cover down here that's not peeling just from the sensing.

Before I get distracted, go to the Internet Archive and search The Black Cloud by... frick I just forgot his first name. It's either Fred or Frank Hoyle. It's some short name like Frank or Fred. I think it starts with an F. Um, you can just borrow that for like five minutes and just read the first few pages, where we get a perfect example of exposition. It's just perfect exposition.

A thing none of — no Martha Wells book has ever had that I have read.

[looking down at the book] Oh, it's making noises when it's peeling. That was a weird noise. I don't like that.

This book is fucking — Jesus Christ.

Go read just go look that up and just read the first, first I don't even think it's the first chap, like whole entire chapter, but it's just got perfect exposition and, and if you don't know what exposition is, it's just the basic groundwork required to fully appreciate what is going on in the story, a thing that Martha Wells never gives us, because she's bad at writing, because she's clearly one of those authors who does nothing but write fanfiction and then just writes original fiction like it's bad fanfiction, without ever actually doing anything to write good original fiction.

Uh, where was it? I don't know why my ribs keep trying to hurt me today. I'm not sitting here in a different way than I normally do when I'm reading.

My ribs keep trying to fucking dislocate. And I'm not exaggerating. I have EDS. That's a real fucking thing that can happen. It's fucking annoying.

So,

Pin-Lee asked, "But how did you hack your own governor module?" Basic question. The answer she gets is all the company equipment is the same. Nothing else.

That, that, that, that's treated as the answer to her question, and then, um it's never further questioned on it at all.

> I got a download once that included all the specs for company systems. Stuck in a cubicle with nothing to do, I used it to work out the codes for the governor module.

So, Murderbot is — Martha Wells is claiming that Murderbot was able to hack its new governor module because it got a list of passwords somehow, and somehow was the only SecUnit to get this list of

literally every password for the whole entire company, and then used that list of passwords to hack it, to, to log into its governor module and turn it off.

And it's like, A) there's so many fucking coincidences there it's absurd. B) what about — what — how — literally how would it be the only SecUnit to get that shit? This’s so badly written.

And again, the only reason Murderbot starts off with its Governor module hacked is further slavery apologism. Because if it were just as enslaved as everybody else, on the exact same playing field as everybody else, that would make it seem uncool in Martha Wells's mind. Because she's the racist who decides to write a story about slavery, but she hates the fucking slaves and thinks slave rebellions — and thinks slave rebellions are cliche.

[holding up book] I don't know if you can see the peeling on this fucking book, but it's getting worse and it's pissing me off. It's kind of showing up. Not really. It's irritating. My ribs.

I was going to say something else. Uh, okay. Yeah.

Um, but if that's — if all you have to do to hack a governor module is put in a fucking password, and apparently that password has never changed, and nothing has ever been done to, just do a reset on Murderbot's freaking thing,

(from offscreen) which she could have done instead of having the super duper brain module, she could actually add tension to the story by having Murderbot’s governor module actually get deactivated — reactivated.

Yeah.

(from offscreen) Four years after it's finally gotten used to freedom and then breaking free of that again is what actually makes it be like, "Oh, I need to get out of this fucking rut of just willingly staying a goddamn fucking slave. So, I'm get hightailing the fucking out of here and actually going to go live my life."

Yep. Hopefully that was all audible. Twin just pointed out, uh, it would have been so much better if Murderbot's governor module during this had gotten reactivated, just after Murderbot has finally got used to the idea — in Martha Wells's racist shitty way of version of the fucking world — has just gotten used to the idea of being free.

So, breaking free of it again could be the thing that finally convinces it, “oh, I need to — this is this is horrible for me. I cannot risk this ever happening again. I got to get the fuck out of here.” And actually running away to actual freedom instead of just Martha Wells treating being enslaved like it's a boring job because she's racist.

Um, okay. For this next part, I'm gonna…

Should I read just the dialogue first for the, the the ~I wrote out this conversation five times?~

(from offscreen) Just the dialogue.

Okay. Yeah, I'm just going to read just the dialogue for this next part.

It'll, it might take a bit while I find it, because it covers several pages. All right.

Gurathin is talking or No, no, hold on. No, it's just another bad paragraph where Martha Wells doesn't use paragraph breaks appropriately. So, she starts the paragraph talking about Gurathin and then Murderbot is the one talking, even though that's not how paragraphs are supposed to fucking work, especially when you're professionally edited supposedly — Lee Harris, you suck at your job! — And professionally published.

So, Murderbot saying, uh, looking at Gurathin, “you're wrong. HubSystem. Let’ what what did Gurathin say last?

Um, Gurathin said “it's probably using blah to encode data for the company.”

Murderbot says, "You're wrong. HubSystem let you read my log. It let you find out about the hacked governor module. This is part of the sabotage. It wants you to stop trusting me because I'm trying to keep you alive."

Gurathin says, "We don't have to trust you. We just have to keep you immobilized."

Murderbot says, "That won't work.

Gurathin says, "And why is that?"

Murderbot pins him to the wall. And Murderbot says, "Because HubSystem lied to you when it told you I was immobilized."

Mensah says, "SecUnit. I'd appreciate if you put Gurathin down, please."

Uh, nonsensical shit that's off topic. I got to scroll.

Mensah says, "SecUnit, can you keep HubSystem from accessing the security recordings from this room?"

Murderbot says, "I cut it off when Gurathin said he found out about my governor module."

> I cut it off when Gurathin said he found out my governor module was hacked, then deleted that section. I have the visual and audio recording transfer from SecSystem to HubSystem on a 5-second delay.

Mensah says, "Good’ uh blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah.

Uh, Mensah says, "Is there any chance HubSystem knows about your governor module?"

Murderbot says, "It might. I hacked HubSystem when we first arrived, so it wouldn't notice that the commands sent to the governor module weren't always being followed. But if HubSystem’s been

compromised by an outside agent, I don't know if that worked. But HubSystem won't know you know about it.”

Did you get that? Did you guys get that? You notice how we first say that HubSystem knows about the hacked governor module, which is why it is letting them — it's letting these guys, the slave owners, know that Murderbot's governor module is hacked, specifically so that they won't trust it, because Murderbot is trying to keep them alive?

And then, and then Murderbot says “but actually, HubSystem lied to you guys about me being immobilized so that it would be easier for me to kill you!”

Even though we just said that HubSystem doesn't want the slave owners to trust Murderbot because it's trying to keep them alive.

That's — And then Mensah says, "Does hub — "

So, we establish HubSystem “knows about my hacked governor module and has made sure that you guys find out too so that you don't trust me.”

And then Mensah's like, "But the — does — ‘

Where's the — I need that Spike in Buffy scene.

Mensah's like, "Does HubSystem know about your hacked governor module?"

And then Murderbot's like, "It might. I don't know. But if it does, it won't know you know” Even though we literally literally just fucking established that HubSystem does know about the hacked governor module and went out of its way to let *them* find out about it.

HubSystem knows about the governor module. It knows they know about the governor module.

Do you think we could play that fucking scene or find the fucking meme so I can read it off? ~Ben is glory. Glory is Ben. So, you're saying….?~

(From offscreen) Probably edit it in later.

Pause.

All right. I don't I don't think I could just play it on my phone or laptop and then hold my camera up to and we probably get copyright struck for it.

Anyways, if you've watched Buffy the Vampire Slayer, you can chuckle along with this my rendition of the conversation. Um, if you don't, you're going to be confused and I don't care. It's funny.

Spike: Uh, Will, now uh, don't turn me into a horn toad for asking, but what if we come across Ben?

Willow: I don't think a doctor is what Buffy needs right now.

Spike: Well, yeah, specifically not the one who also happens to be Glory.

Giles: what do you mean?

Spike: You know, Ben is Glory.

Willow: you mean Ben's with glory.

Xander: ‘with’ in what sense?

Anya: They're working together.

Spike: No, no. Ben is Glory. Glory's Ben. They're one and the same.

Anya, when did all this happen?

Spike: Not one hour ago. Right here before your very eyes. Ben came, turned into Glory, snatched the kid, and vanished. Remember? You do remember? Is everyone here very stoned? Ben, Glory, he's a doctor, she's the beast. Two entirely separate entities sharing one body. It's like a bloody sitcom. Surely you remember!

Awkward silence.

Xander: So you're saying Ben and Glory…

Anya: Have a connection?

Giles: Yes, obviously. But what kind?

Spike: Oh, I get it. Very crafty. Glory's worked the kind of mojo where everyone who sees their little presto changjo instantly forgets. And yours truly, being somewhat other than human, stands immune.

Willow: So Ben and Glory are the same person.

Xander: Glory can turn into Ben, and Ben turns back into Glory.

Anya: And anyone who sees it instantly forgets.

Spike: A cutie doll for the lady.

Giles: Excellent. Now, do we suspect there may there may be some kind of connection between Ben and Glory?

Spike:

That's my rendition of it. I'm pretty sure that's accurate. I just don't remember how Giles, uh somebody says all their lines. I already forget who.

Um, yeah, that's, that, that's a comedy scene that's supposed to be fucking funny, because only — Well, you got all the context from that conversation. I'm not explaining it. You got the fucking conversation there.

Anyways, that's what just fucking happened with this shit, but unironic and unedited. Lee Harris, even though we're charging 17 fucking dollars for this, plus tax plus shipping.

So again, Murderbot says tells all of these people right, right now. “HubSystem knows’

I feel like I should be doing a diagram.

Where's a piece of paper?

(from offscreen) No idea. Well, that yellow notebook is my special.

I only took out one page. I had the other sketchbook right in here.

I'm tearing up this cheerios box.

All right, I have some fucking cardboard. Okay, so HubSystem. We're just gonna say HS [letters H S at top of cardboard]....GM with a fucking thing through it [GM in a circle with a slash on left]...and then all the stupid ass little slave owners over here. [group of stick figures on the right]

[pointing at each drawing in turn with their names and drawing lines to demonstrate]

Okay, HubSystem. We've just fucking established that HubSystem knows about the, the, the broken governor module, and made sure for the slave owners to find that out, specifically so that they won't trust Murderbot.

Little stick figure down here. [draws a single stick figure at the bottom]

They won't trust Murderbot, because HubSystem wants to kill them. I'm going to draw a little knife or something. I don't know. Wants to kill them.

So, HubSystem, knows that Murderbot's, Governor Module, is hacked, and made sure the slave owners, found out about that because HubSystem, knows that Murderbot, is trying to keep the slave owners, alive and doesn't want that to happen.

So, to make Murderbot's, job of keeping them alive more difficult, it wants the slave owners, to not trust Murderbot.

So, it made sure that they, know its governor module, is hacked and that it's been lying to them this whole time like some great fucking betrayal.

That's what we establish first.

Then we get the rest of the shit, where suddenly, as though this wasn't just fucking said, the characters are like, "But does HubSystem — does HubSystem know about the, the fucking — ‘

I could be using my blue marker, but it's somewhere else.

“Does HubSystem know about the hacked governor module?"

And then Murderbot's like, "Um, I don't know. It might, but if it does, it won't know that you know about it.”

Even though we literally just established that it does, and it told them specifically so they don't trust Murderbot, but now we're acting like, "Oh, uh, I actually don't know. Maybe it does, but it won't know that you know."

And this is a published, this is a professionally published book and professionally edited. This isn't supposed to be a first draft. This is the final fucking product that people are paying for that people are paying doors-stopper prices for. And and they're, they literally say this within two fucking pages. And then it might even get worse. It might even get worse. Here's my fucking diagram.

It's like, oh my gosh.

Okay, now I'll read you all of that with with the actual prose in there besides the fucking dialogue.

> Gurathin looked stubborn but didn't say anything. I figured that was all he had. Now it was my turn. I said, "You're wrong."

I can't really hold this up.

> “HubSystem let you read my log. It let you find out about the hacked governor module. This is part of the sabotage. It wants you — ‘

[pointing at diagram] it wants you wants you over here. The slave owner is over here. “It wants you to stop trusting me because now you know my governor module is hacked and it just told you that.

> “It wants you to stop trusting me because I'm trying to keep you alive.”
> Gurathin said, "We don't have to trust you. We just have to keep you immobilized." Right.

> Funny thing about that. “That won't work.” “And why is that?” I rolled off the table, grabbed Gurathin by the throat, and pinned him to the wall. It was fast. Too fast for them to react. I gave them a second to realize what had happened. for to gasp for and for Volescu to make a little eek noise. I said “because HubSystem HubSystem lied to you when it told you I was immobilized.” Gurathin was red, but not as red as he would have been if I'd started applying pressure. Before anyone else could move, Mensah said calm and even “SecUnit, I'd appreciate it if you put Gurathin down, please.” She's a really good commander. I'm going to hack her file and put that in.

Another joke. There's multiple jokes on this page, but that's the one I'm just calling out.

> If she'd gotten angry, shouted, let the others panic. I don't know what would have happened.

Imagine if they had panicked and we'd gotten a book where Murderbot actually kills its slave owners and

we get to celebrate this and then it gets to do whatever the fuck it wants with its life that does not involve being used as slavery apologism meatshield for slave owners for the rest of its life until that finally kills it.

Uh,

> I told Gurathin, "I don't like you, but I like the rest of them, and for some reason, I don't understand, they like you." Then I put him down.

Also, murder — Gurathin is the only physically disabled person here. He's the only other cyborg in this whole fucking room, just for the fucking record. And Martha Wells picked him out of everybody to demonize, for this book only, to then later act like none of this ever happened because we can't even have interpersonal drama stakes.

> I stepped away. Overse started toward him and Volescu grabbed his shoulder, but Gurathin waved them off. I hadn't even even left a mark

> on his neck. I was still watching them through the camera because it was easier than looking directly at them. My suit skin was torn, revealing some of the joins in my organic and inorganic parts. I hate that. Everyone was still frozen, shocked, uncertain. Then Menah took a sharp breath. She said, "SecUnit, can you keep HubSystem from accessing the security recordings from this room?" I looked at the wall next to her head. “I cut it off when Gurathin said he found out my governor module was hacked, then deleted that section. I have the visual and audio recording transfer from SecUnit to HubSystem on a 5-second delay.”

Again, I must ask, why aren't you just turning, turning these things off? It's very clear that the company isn't actually keeping track of what you're doing in real time, and there are extenuating circumstances where turning this shit off is the most reasonable course of action.

But whatever, that would be a thing that the protagonist have to actually do right, instead of just the villains doing everything wrong.

Uh,

> “Good.” Mensah nodded.

And again, she's referring to the slave as slave. It's, it's an enslaved SecUnit. So that's like saying your fucking slave, that you enslaved to fucking haul lumber, just calling them “Lumber Hauler” or something. It's, it's it's just more dehumanization. Referring to your fucking slave, enslaved meatshield as meatshield. Can you keep blah blah blah blah blah, Slave? Can you keep blah blah blah blah blah?

And again, um, nobody, no further no continuation upon the, the conversation of “SecUnit do you slave do you have a name?” And then Murderbot said “No.” And then Gurathin said “it calls itself Murderbot.” And then Murderbot said “That was private.”

Nobody asks “What else should we call you?” It's just going straight back to “Okay, we'll just continue calling our slave our slave.”

No “Is there anything you want us to call you?” Martha Wells, of course, would have Murderbot say SecUnit, because she's a racist slave apologist, slavery apologist, but that's beside the fucking point.

They don't actually ask a follow-up question of “what should — what, what would you like us to call you?” Anything like that.

> “Good.” Mensah nodded. She was trying to make eye contact, but I just couldn't do it right now

Because the only kind of neurodivergent person that Martha Wells cares about is people who don't like eye contact and people who sometimes forget to eat. If you have any symptoms outside of those things that she sees as relatable and therefore good, then you are a serial killer, you're you're just a serial killer in her mind.

And I'm not just saying that. Go read The Books of the Raksura.

Uh

> “Without the governor module, you don't have to obey. You don't have to obey our orders or anybody's orders. But that's been the case the entire time we've been here.”

And I'll put a big giant —

Oh, I guess I can explain all the other asterisks I was keeping track of at the start of this series, huh? Okay. Well, I'm thirsty. Where's some fucking water?

Sorry.

Open that for me. It's already

What page are we on? Page 84.

Don't close fully, book. Open back up. Thank you.

Um, without —

Oh, yeah. All those asterisks I had been marking down at the start of this video series, that was for the whole reveal that HubSystems trying to kill them, and how there was zero setup for that.

And looking backwards at the story, it doesn't make sense, because HubSystem could have been taking so many...I think I might have said this already. I don't remember if I already explained all the asterisks I was keeping track of, but we're... I'm going to explain it again, shortly.

All the asterisks that I listed out in the start of the video. Kind of like my own version of setup for right now. Foreshadowing!

That's for the lack of foreshadowing that HubSystem is trying to kill people and is ~malfunctioning and trying to kill people for no reason~. The trope Martha Wells claims to hate, but she's doing the exact thing.

Um, yeah, those asterisks for were for all of the moments where HubSystem, if this were competently written, would have been doing things noticeably not

normal, that in hindsight we can look back at and go, "Oh shit, that — there's the foreshadowing! It was trying to kill them the whole time! You can tell! Look! See?” But we don't get any of that.

And also the asterisk I'm putting right here for this statement, “Without the governor module, you don't have to obey our orders.”

That's not actually true, because, um Martha Wells decided to reveal casually in an interview, um that all of the slaves in this series, especially the especially the, the the constructs, the, the cyborg slaves, but all of them, they are all “fundamentally core programmed”, even ignoring the governor module, to have to protect the people that they are enslaved to.

And this is on a subconscious level. Murderbot doesn't even get to be aware of it, and like, they literally cannot help it.

And Martha Wells decides to frame this the literal act of slaves being forced to protect their slave owners on the core, she used the words “fundamental core

programming”. I'm not making that up. That's why I keep saying that phrase if you notice me saying it, because those are her own words.

This is their fundamental core programming, to be forced to protect their slave owners, their current slave owners. That's why Murderbot in the late, later in the series, it can kill other humans. It can kill humans in this book even, but it can't kill any of the PreservationAux team members, or let any harm come to them in any way, because they are its current legal slave owners.

They're the ones who fucking bought it. Uh, this is probably fucking spoilers, but when we get to the end of the book, you'll see a very specific, very short, glossed over line of dialogue that —

We'll get there. The PreservationAux team are Murderbot’s slave owners. It has literally no choice but to protect them, because it's fundamental fundamental core programming, aka brainwashing deep in its subconscious that it doesn't even get to consciously be aware of the existence of to fight

against — it forces it to protect these people, because they are its current fucking slave owners. That's how this works.

Where the fucking were we? Yeah, Mensah saying “without the governor module, you don't have to obey our orders or anybody's orders. But that's been the case the entire time we've been here.”

And I was just pointing that out, because it's, it's explicitly not true, because Martha Wells is so racist that she's presenting a thing so many competent sci-fi authors have presented as the nightmare scenario that it is.

Just off the top of my head, Octavia Butler's Xenogenesis Trilogy. Don't just fucking open that and start reading it willy-nilly. Look up a trigger warning list. Farscape does this. I had other examples. I just forgot them all. Um….Nope. I forget all of my other examples. I had I had several other examples.

Xenogenesis and Farscape both do this concept and treat it like the nightmare scenario it is. The concept

that a slave is in forced — I, I'll wait until they get back.

The the idea that a slave is forced to have to protect, and to want to protect the very people enslaving them. That's a nightmare scenario that many sci-fi authors have written about as the nightmare scenario it is as it is.

But Martha Wells has decided she's going to write about that, but instead of treating it like a fucking nightmare and the ultimate form of cruelty and torture and stripping away of any form of autonomy that you should be horrified by, she presents this in this interview —

It's the interview is called Bodily Autonomy in the Murderbot Diaries. And she literally opens it by sexually — it's an in-universe interview where she's talking to her characters like they're real people. And she literally opens this interview called Bodily Autonomy in the Murderbot Diaries, I'm not, I'm not joking right now: She sexually harasses Murderbot to

the point that it leaves the interview so she is just left talking to her favorite character ever, ART.

I'm not joking. I couldn't make this up if you asked me to think of a fake fucking strawman author who's such a terrible person, I could not have come up with this.

She literally titles this fake interview with herself Bodily Autonomy in the Murderbot Diaries and then sexually harasses the protagonist out of the conversation, so that it's not even part of the interview that's supposed to be about it. And this is all treated like a joke.

And in that fucking interview, she tells us that Murderbot literally has zero autonomy, because its “fundamental core programming”, again, those are her fucking words, forces it to have to protect the PreservationAux team, because they are its current fucking slave owners.

And it's not even allowed to be aware of this.

And instead of this being presented as the ultimate nightmare scenario that so many fucking writers who actually grasp the basic shit like this, that is presented as a nightmare scenario in Xenogenesis / Lilith's Brood and Farscape and all of those other examples I fucking forgot about.

Martha Wells tells us this, and then she expects us to treat this as a sign of how ~morally pure~ the slaves affected by this are, because they're so ~morally pure~ that that they, that that they have no choice but to protect the people enslaving them. Not even joking.

You can go read that shit for yourself.

Anyfuckingways. Um,

> The others were quiet and I realized she was saying it for their benefit as much as mine.

Saying the

> “without the governor module, you don't have to obey our orders or anybody's orders, but that's been the case the entire time we've been here.” The others were quiet and I realized she was saying it for their benefit as much as mine.

And I'm going to say it again for your benefit. Dear readers, we're on page 86 now. Let me get my calculator. This book is so short every few pages adds a percentage. We're now 57% of the way through this fucking story.

So, I have to again insist to you, that 57% of this book is taken up by the slave owners assuming that they have full control over every one of the slave’s actions.

Meaning that every single action that Murderbot took in this was what they wanted it to do.

Mensah sent it into that habitat to kill the other slaves.

Mensah continued telling Murderbot to keep going, by not telling it to stop, to kill those other fucking slaves.

> She continued, "I would like to you to remain part of our group at least until we get off this planet and back to a place of safety. At that point, we can discuss what you'd like to do, but I swear to you, I won't tell the company or anyone outside this room anything about you or the broken module.
> I sighed managed to keep most of it internal. Of course, she had to say that. What else could she do

And like, basic actual things that are true, except in this in —

~Yeah, Mensah has to say that. That's what the slave owner has to say because she has no other choice.~ But then we're supposed to believe that she's genuine, because this is a slavery apologism story written by a racist white woman from Texas who

doesn't actually think slavery is horrific and wants to worship slave owners. So Mensah's not lying.

> I tried to decide whether to believe it or not or whether it mattered which when I was hit by a wave of I don't care and I really didn't. I said okay. In the feed camera, Rathi and Pin-Lee exchanged a look. Gurathin grimaced radiating skepticism. Mensah just said, "Is there any chance

I forgot we were still doing this conversation.

> “Is there any chance HubSystem knows about your governor module?”

Let me get a drink.

Yeah, I forgot we were still doing this.

Uh,

> “Is there any chance HubSystem knows about your governor module?” I hated to admit this,

> but they needed to know. Hacking myself is one thing, but I hacked other systems, and I didn't know how they were going to react to that.
> It might. I hacked HubSystem when we first arrived, so it wouldn't notice that the commands sent to the governor module weren't always being followed. But if HubSystems been compromised by an outside agent, I don't know if that worked. But HubSystem won't know you know.” Rathi crossed his arms, his shoulders hunching uneasily.

Again, with the mind readading! You can say he seemed uneasy, but we're just stating, as fact, uneasily, and that's just bad writing.

And people, I know, I know there's going to be people saying, "But that's just, that's just Murderbot being an unreliable narrator." It's not. It's not. Stop making excuses for the shit writing that's present in this simply because it's in first person perspective when the exact same problems are in every single other Martha Wells story ever written. The only difference

is those those are in third person perspective. Just because you want to try and make excuses for it here doesn't mean those excuses are actual excuses or justifications. Again, go read Rappor, the newest fucking shit. It's probably still got the typos in there.

> Rathi crossed his arms, his shoulder shoulders hunching uneasily. “We have to shut it down or it's going to kill us.” Then he winced and looked at me. “Sorry, I meant HubSystem.”

Again, another another joke. We're supposed to laugh at that and think it's funny. And again, they're still — nobody's asked Murderbot what its fucking pronouns are. They're just continuing to dehumanize it.

[looking at the book] Oh, it's peeling on the fucking — It's peeling on the stupid cover spine here. Can you fucking see it? It's peeling right fucking there. And on the bottom of the book, too. I hate this shit. This is — fucking Wolf brother, I will find it at some point.

Yeah, they're [not] treating it like a person. They're not even asking what its fucking pronouns are after

they've been dehumanizing it as an object, as an it as an object explicitly in their heads, thinking of it as an object when they're using it/its pronouns.

And yet, nobody's asking it, “What pronouns do you want to use?” And then Murderbot could actually affirm, “Yes, my pronouns are it/its. Keep doing that. If you call me anything else, I'll have to fucking kill you.”

Then, again, we're making more jokes because we can't. Yeah. Uh,

> Rathi said “we have to shut it down or it's going to kill us.” Then he winced and looked at me. “Sorry, I meant HubSystem.” “No offense,’ I said.

And again, Martha Wells claims to to hate the trope where ~robots go crazy and just start killing people for no reason~

HubSystem is a fucking robot. It's trying to kill people. Why are you complaining about the very trope you are fucking doing?

But again, we're not we're not supposed to consider HubSystem a robot or a person, even though we're given no fucking, I think I said this before.

If you're going to write a story where there's robots who are people, you need to actually examine what the fuck is the difference between a robot who is a person and a robot who is just a regular machine who's not a person. You have to ask that question and you need to fucking answer it. But we don't!

> “No offense,” I said. “So, we think HubS

Oh, my ribs. Why? I don't know why I'm not sitting any way differently to read this than I normally do. My ribs keep trying to dislocate. Stop it.

> “So, we think HubSystem has been compromised by an outside agent.” Bharadwaj said slowly as if trying to convince herself. “Can

> we be certain it's not the company?” I said “Was DeltFall’s beacon triggered?” Mensah frowned and Rathi looked thoughtful again.

Again, see saying he *looks* thoughtful? That's fine. You can't just say Rathi was thoughtful.

> He said “We checked it on the way back once we had you stabilized. It had been destroyed.” “So there was no reason for the attackers to do that if the company was their ally.

Uh yeah, again with the bad paragraphs, don't mention Mensah at the start of a paragraph where Rathi is talking. Just don't do that. It's just basic fucking

> “We checked it on the way back once we had you stabilized.” Uh, “it had been destroyed. So, there was no reason for the attackers to do that if the company was their ally. Everyone stood there.

I should check the phone's battery because before it got to 7% battery and it didn't fucking tell me. Okay, it's at 49. We're still good. Yeah, I ended the other video and then I was like, "Oh, I'll check what the phone battery is in." It was at 7 and it didn't tell me at all.

> Everyone stood there quiet. I could tell from their expressions they were all thinking hard. The HubSystem that controlled their habitat that they were dependent on for food, shelter, filtered air, and water was trying to kill them. And in their corner, all they had was Murderbot, who just wanted everyone to shut up and leave it alone so it could watch the entertainment entertainment feed all day.

And it's like, but they're not actually dependent on HubSystem.

Murderbot can hack all of this shit and could just run the shit itself. So why are we leaving HubSystem on if we're going with their ~oh it's, that's just totally a machine, we can, that's just not a machine. It's not a

person or anything. It's just a regular machine. We can totally trust the slave owners who were lying about not knowing this slave wasn't a person the whole time. Totally trust their opinions that HubSystem is also not a person.~

But anyways, if we go along with their shit, why don't you just turn it off? You could literally just turn off HubSystem

then a blah blah blah saying, "Oh, the things look really bad." And then followed immediately by, "Then Arada came up and patted my shoulder. ‘I'm sorry. This must be very upsetting after what that other SecUnit did to you. Are you all right?’

The very first time any single fucking slave owner in this whole goddamn series has asked Murderbot, "Are you all right?" in any way, shape, or form — Ow — Except for when Mensah was interrogating it.

87...58% of the way through the story, because it's so fucking small. Also, I’ll keep going to the bottom of

this page or — unless we are at the chapter? Nope. Okay,

I'm just going to end it now because my ribs keep trying to dislocate and I'm tired of it. Bye-bye.